

OWENSBORO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2026 | 4:00 PM
Owensboro City Hall
101 E. 4th Street
Owensboro, Kentucky

1. CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Tom Watson

2. ROLL CALL - City Clerk Beth Davis

3. INVOCATION & PLEDGE - Mayor Pro Tem Bob Glenn

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.A. Mayor Watson presented the "Emergency Services Week" Proclamation to members of Owensboro Health, Owensboro Fire Department, and AMR.

4.B. Captain Clayton Tuma presented a Fire Department Hazmat Update (presentation attached).

4.C. City Projects List (attached) was distributed and City Manager Nate Pagan commented that the estimated completion date for the Bluegrass Fieldhouse has been pushed back two (2) months. There was discussion about liquidated damages.

5. BUSINESS

5.A. Minutes dated May 5, 2026 were approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn; motion carried.

5.B. The following board appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner Maglinger:

- **Wesleyan Shawnee Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Austin McDaniel to a two-year term effective May 19, 2026
- **Northwest Neighborhood Alliance** – Appoint Deanna Darnes to a two-year term effective May 19, 2026
- **Owensboro Historic Preservation Board** – Appoint Janet Johnston-Crowe to a three-year term effective May 19, 2026
- **Regional Water Resource Agency Board** – Appoint Phil Haire to a four-year term effective July 1, 2026

6. ORDINANCES - 1st READING

6.A. Ordinance 10-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND APPROPRIATING THE REVENUES TO THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY AS SET FORTH HEREIN was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The estimated revenues and fund balances set forth in the 2026-2027 Budget of the City of Owensboro are hereby appropriated to the various departments of the City of Owensboro for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$171,876,952, inclusive of Internal Service Funds, for the various purposes designated in the 2026-2027 Annual Budget. City Manager Pagan explained there are no changes to the draft general fund budget that was presented to the Board of Commissioners and the public in late April. The budget includes no changes to the City's tax rates and the general fund is balanced. The budget includes investments in the areas prioritized by the Board of Commissioners, including public safety, infrastructure, and economic development. In addition, the budget provides resources needed for city departments to continue providing high-level, professional services and facilities to the community for the next fiscal year.

6.B. Consider Ordinance 11-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE COMPENSATION OF CITY EMPLOYEES AND NON-ELECTED CITY OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PERSONNEL AND PAY CLASSIFICATION PLAN, AS REQUIRED BY KRS 83A.070 was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

The Board of Commissioners has delegated authority to establish certain employment and operational policies of the City, but has reserved certain policies to remain under the direct authority of the Commission. KRS 83A.070(2) directs the legislative body of each city to fix the compensation of city employees and non-elected city officers in accordance with a personnel and pay classification which shall be adopted by ordinance. City Manager Pagan added that the pay chart ordinance is a companion to the budget ordinance previously presented. The cost-of-living increase included in the budget is three percent (3%).

6.C. Consider Ordinance 12-2026 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND AMENDING ORDINANCE 6-2025 TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR BLUEGRASS FIELDHOUSE OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPER INCENTIVE; VARIOUS FUNDS IN GENERAL FUND DEPARTMENTS AS NEEDED; RECEIVE AND APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS FOR TRANSIT AND TAX REVENUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE GATEWAY TIF; AND TO TRANSFER APPROPRIATIONS FROM SPORTSCENTER TO CONVENTION CENTER was introduced and publicly read on first reading.

Budget amendment to FY2025-2026 to appropriate funds for Bluegrass Fieldhouse

operations and developer incentive; various funds in general fund departments as needed; receive and appropriate grant funds for transit and tax revenues associated with the Gateway TIF; and to transfer appropriations from Sportscenter to Convention Center. City Manager Pagan explained the amendments are the typical year-end adjustments which include previously approved items such as equipment for Bluegrass Fieldhouse and receipt and expenditure of grant funds. Several transit grants received saved the City approximately \$530,000. Also included are incentives for projects already approved and additional funds for Fire Department overtime.

7. CITY MANAGER ITEMS

7.A. The financial report for the period ending April 30, 2026 was presented by Director of Finance and Support Services Director Angela Waninger (attached). Motion was made by Mayor Watson and seconded by Commissioner Sanford to file for audit; motion carried.

7.B. The following personnel appointment was approved with motion by Mayor Watson and second by Mayor Pro Tem Glenn; motion carried.

PROBATIONARY, FULL-TIME, NON-CIVIL SERVICE APPOINTMENT:

- **Brian B. Saville, Jr.** – Bus Driver with the Public Works Transit Department, effective May 31, 2026

7.C. City Manager Comments – City Manager Pagan announced that this week is *Public Works Week* and showed a picture of the staff (attached). He also stated the courtesy boat dock at English Park was damaged over the winter. An emergency replacement has been ordered. The old dock has been repaired on one side while awaiting fabrication of the new one.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Members of the Commission discussed the events they recently attended and complimented the success of BBQ and Barrels.

Mayor Pro Tem Glenn requested that constituents leave their name when reaching out to him.

Commissioner NeSmith told the audience that she respects their opinions and would not do anything to harm the community (referring to a data center).

9. OPEN PUBLIC FORUM

Michael Boards (14 Dixiana) spoke about he and Owensboro being blessed.

Glenda Wright (711 Jed Place) spoke against constructing a data center, requested at least one (1) year moratorium for research and requested meetings be held later in the evening to accommodate working individuals.

Gary Raley (west side resident) stated he was told by police officers at the BBQ and Barrels that he was not allowed to ride his bicycle on the sidewalk. He then said he was told varying answers and asked for the accurate law.

Paul Payne (2343 Secretariat Drive) spoke against a data center locating in Owensboro.

LeRae Jackson (2517 W. 10th Street) thanked the City for the neighborhood clean-ups and said she is against a data center locating in Owensboro.

Maranda McDaniel (672 Greenbriar Street) spoke against a data center locating in Owensboro and submitted a petition with community signatures on it.

Mayor Watson said that no one has contacted the City and the City has not contacted anyone about locating a data center in Owensboro. He added that as long as he's Mayor, there would not be a data center in Owensboro.

Kaylee Speaks (1032 Holly Avenue) asked for some clarity from Mayor Watson due to the comments he previously made in the newspaper. She requested the City be more transparent in the future.

Serena O'Bryan (5423 Ruidoso Loop) spoke against a data center locating in Owensboro and requested a thirty-six (36) month moratorium for research.

Tatum Helm (1122 Booth Avenue) spoke about zoning on the Massie property and requested the zoning remain as an I-1, since it can still be used for economic development without having to change to I-2.

Chris Stuchell (900 E. 3rd Street) requested a change be made to the zoning ordinance to make a data center non-permissible, which would be final closure on the issue. He drafted a zoning ordinance with the changes based on a few different communities.

Diana Friend (316 Hale Avenue) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro.

Vicki Mills (602 Maple Avenue) asked that a law be passed to regulate electric bicycles and electric scooters for the safety of riders and the general public.

Joe Denodo (2413 Daviess Street) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro.

Kathy Wethington (424 E. 21st Street) stated she was almost run over by an e-bike on the Greenbelt and is against locating a data center in Owensboro.

Kelly Schroeder (107 E. 23rd Street) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro, asked that her Facebook be restored to its original state (she thought that the City of Owensboro was censoring her page) and mentioned the Chamber of Commerce CEO being outside her house on the sidewalk and he “bolted” when she came out.

Josh Flaspoebler (1918 S. Griffith Avenue) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro.

Cliff Carlock (9140 State Route 405, Maceo) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro.

Victoria (west side resident) spoke against locating a data center in Owensboro, praying before the meeting, meeting times of the Board of Commissioners, asking names and addresses of speakers.

An individual (refused to give name and address) spoke against having to identify themselves and give their address based on Trump’s statement related to transgender, fascism and their personal safety. Mayor Pro Tem Glenn clarified that he recently received a phone call from someone who cursed him and threatened his life; that was why he requested people identify themselves.

10. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 by motion of Mayor Watson and a second from Commissioner NeSmith.

Thomas H. Watson, Mayor

Beth Davis, City Clerk